

Director's Message

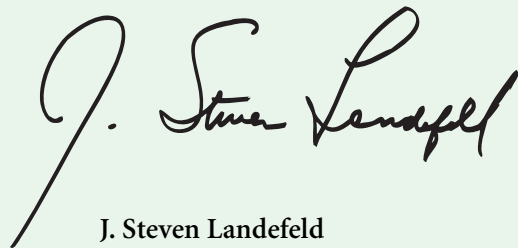
In this month's SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, we are pleased to publish an article discussing metropolitan area personal income, which averaged 6.3 percent growth in 2006, compared with 5.3 percent in 2005. The estimates were released in August 2007, an acceleration of 1 month compared with last year and an acceleration of 8 months compared with 2 years ago.

The accelerated release reflects ongoing efforts at the Bureau of Economic Analysis to make important statistics available on a more timely basis. We have speeded up releases across all of our program areas and continue to look for ways to make our statistics available even earlier.

Also in this month's issue, we continue to roll out newly available revised data from the national income and product accounts. The 2007 annual revision was released in July, but some tables are released a few months later. In addition, newly available direct investment data, both inbound and outbound, are available in this issue.

As always, we present the most recent gross domestic product estimates in an easy-to-view, graphical format. Government spending estimates are similarly presented.

I'd like to mention an upcoming user conference scheduled for October 26 at our building in Washington, DC. The event will feature a broad discussion of our industry accounts. Important developments will be on the agenda, such as the coming updates to our research and development estimates. You can read about the event on the next page. We frequently hold such user meetings as a way to keep customers abreast of our activities. You'll likely find it worth your time.



J. Steven Landefeld
Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis